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▲ Filth and disease were rampant in the old Robertson County animal shelter. These three secluded kennels were used to house numerous dogs, providing no outside running space, no ability to clean the area and little hope of adoption.



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▲ The outside of the previous Robertson County animal shelter was just an old shack with dirt floors and no protection from the weather for the animals housed inside.

>> Since roosters can be described as having only two legs, Lane said that the animal-cruelty statute did not apply to cockfighting. But, in a 1994 case, *Munn v. Com.*, 889 S.W.2d 49, the Court looked at the overall definition of animal in KRS 446.010 which includes “every warm-blooded living creature except a human being,” and agreed that cockfighting by this definition did fall under second degree cruelty to animals.

“I think cockfighting in general is pretty common in the state of Kentucky, but I don’t think it’s dealt with very often by law enforcement,” said KSP Detective Sgt. Jere Hopson with Drug Enforcement/Special Investigations West. “There are no good laws that are written up. Our legislators haven’t defined any good laws that pertain to cockfighting. So, it’s kind of a gray zone.”

Despite the discrepancies in the law, law enforcement officers face other challenges to identifying, locating and witnessing cockfights throughout the state. As in the case in Montgomery County, with the economic benefit the area received, the probability of someone filing a complaint about the establishment is highly unlikely. As law enforcement as a whole is becoming more intelligence led and understaffed, KSP Post 8 Capt. Bob Murray said that events of cock or dog fighting could only be discovered and investigated if stumbled upon during another investigation or if a substantial complaint was received regarding it.

“I don’t think you’ll ever see, in these times of limited man power and limited budgets that there would be a cockfighting task force,” he said. “Do I think that the problem